

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

The California Department of Education, Nutrition Services Division (NSD) announces the availability of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Application for Participation packets.

The SFSP provides reimbursement to agencies that serve nutritious meals to children, 18 years of age and younger, in areas where children are not attending classes because they are on school vacation for at least 15 continuous school days. Schools that operate on a year-round calendar, with vacation periods of less than 15 continuous school days, may request a waiver to operate a SFSP site. Sites may be established where 50 percent of the children are eligible for free or reduced price school meals.

Agencies eligible to become a SFSP sponsor are schools, camps, Indian tribal governments, and units of municipal, state, county, or local governments, and private nonprofit agencies.

Sponsors may prepare their own meals, obtain meals from a public or commercial food vendor or school food authority. Sponsors must maintain operational and administrative records to claim reimbursement. Sponsors serving children of migrant workers or children enrolled in residential camps may serve three meals daily while other types of sponsors may serve two meals daily. All meals must meet the United States Department of Agriculture's minimum meal pattern, which ensures that children receive the nutrients they need to be better prepared when returning to school.

The current meal reimbursement rates are: \$1.32 breakfast; \$2.30 lunch or dinner; and \$0.53 snacks. Administrative reimbursements are also available. A sponsor who prepares their own meals or has sites that are located in rural areas will receive a higher reimbursement rate.

Agencies interested in becoming a SFSP sponsor must attend a NSD *mandatory* sponsor training. These informative workshops are conducted statewide during March and April with dates and locations to be announced.

To be placed on the SFSP mailing list and obtain additional information regarding the mandatory sponsor workshops and receive a SFSP application packet, call (800) 952-5609 or contact the NSD, Resources, Information and Management Unit at 560 J Street, Suite 270, Sacramento CA 95814.

Program benefits are available to all children without regard to race, color, sex, handicap, age, or national origin. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
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